REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 28 – 33 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed toward non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1 and 23 - 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartram et al. in view of Pajak et al.

In response to the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection of Claims 28 – 33, Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner. Hence, Applicants kindly request withdrawal of the rejection. Further, Applicants added independent Claim 40 for consideration.

For the reasons stated more fully below, Applicants submit that the claims are allowable over the applied references. Hence, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

The invention is set forth in claims of varying scopes of which Claim 1 is illustrative.

> 1. A method of interacting with locally and remotely stored data objects in a distributed data processing system, comprising:
> determining whether a data object is stored on both a remote system in the distributed data processing system and a local system;
> displaying on the local system, if it is determined that the data object is stored on both the local system and the remote system in the distributed data processing system, the data object as a hybrid data object, the hybrid data object representing both the data object stored on the local system and the data object stored on the remote system;
> enabling a user on the local system to perform an action on the hybrid data object by first selecting the hybrid data object;
> ***prompting the user, in response to the user selecting the hybrid data object, to indicate whether the action is to be performed on the data object stored on the local system, the data object stored on the remote system, or both the data object stored on***

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>   **the local system and the data object stored on the
>   remote system**; and
>   performing the action as indicated by the user.
>   (Emphasis added.)

The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartram et al. in view of Pajak et al. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Bartram et al. purport to teach a system and method for distributing shared storage for collaboration across multiple devices. According to the teachings of Bartram et al., objects can be shared across a number of units on a peer-to-peer network. The objects are supplied by individual users and reflected at other units in a user interface view dedicated to a shared store using object anchors. The object anchors are pointers to the objects and not the objects themselves. Users can make a copy of any remote object by selecting the copy operation on the remote object's anchor. Multiple copies of an object can therefore exist on the shared store and are indicated by the object's owners to others. When a person's local copy needs to be merged or reconciled with another, the version information can be supplied to the appropriate people and the decision of how to synchronize a file content is left to the user's specific application tools.

However, Bartram et al. do not teach the step of **prompting the user, in response to the user selecting a hybrid data object, to indicate whether the action is to be performed on the data object stored on the local system, the data object stored on the remote system, or both the data object stored on the local system and the data object stored on the remote system** as in the claimed invention.

The Examiner stated that Bartram et al. teach the prompting step in paragraphs [0039] – [0042] and [0057] – [0066]. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Firstly, in the cited paragraphs, Bartram et al. use examples to show how a user can remove local objects from the shared store. Secondly, Bartram et al. do not teach anywhere in their disclosure that a user can remove a ***remote*** data object from the share stored. Since Bartram et al. do not teach that a user can remove a ***remote*** data object from the shared store, there is no reason for Bartram et al. to disclose the step of prompting a user to indicate whether a local, a remote or both the local and the remote data objects are to be removed when Bartran et al. are showing how a user can remove a local data object from the shared store. And indeed, Bartram et al. do not show the prompting step in the cited paragraphs.

In paragraphs [0039] – [0042], it is disclosed that:

[0039] Mike has an old document in the shared store, which he wants to remove. He selects the icon for the document and deletes it using a context menu or the delete button. The anchor will be removed from that location in the store. Any anchors from other locations to that specific document will be removed as well.

[0040] If the deleted document is a shortcut then only the shortcut is removed and the document remains unaffected.

[0041] Henk removes a document but this document has shortcuts to it from several locations. Removing the document would imply that those shortcuts become invalid. The shared store software detects these shortcuts and presents Henk with options: Remove the document, remove the document including all the shortcuts, or leave the document.

[0042] Lyn has an old version of Mike's document as well. She runs into it when browsing around the folders using Windows Explorer. She deletes the document. The shared store discovers

that the document no longer exists, and removes it from the list of local files. Any anchors to this document are removed as well. The automatic removal can be preceded by an informational message to the operator about the missing document and ask for confirmation before removing the anchors as well., to account for the case where the original document was moved rather than deleted.

Note that in paragraphs [0039] – [0042], it is always a local document that is being removed from the user interface view dedicated to the shared store. But nowhere in those paragraphs is there a teaching of *prompting the user, in response to the user selecting a hybrid data object, to indicate whether the action is to be performed on the data object stored on the local system, the data object stored on the remote system, or both the data object stored on the local system and the data object stored on the remote system* as asserted by the Examiner.

In paragraphs [0057] – [0066], it is disclosed that:

[0057] This use case shows how people modify and reconcile documents when on the move. Mike, Lyn and Henk each have a copy of the same document. Both Henk and Lyn make changes to their copy of the document and each saves it locally on their computer. Lyn is finished and wants to get rid of her version of the document since she is done with it. Before she can delete it however she has to reconcile her changes with someone else. Lyn requests a list of other available copies of the original document. The user interface presents the list of users who have copies (Mike, Henk). Lyn chooses Henk to reconcile with. The system now detects there is a conflict with Henk's version of the document since both have changed from their original copy, and presents Lyn and Henk with options:

[0058] a) Create a new different file

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[0059] b) Lose changes from Henk

[0060] c) Lose changes from Lyn

[0061] d) Use the application (eg Word) to merge changes by Henk
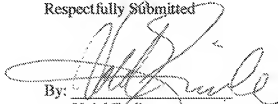
[0062] e) Use the application (eg Word) to merge changes by Lyn

[0063] Lyn and Henk agree on option d). Lyn's copy is sent to Henk's computer where Word is started to merge the two versions. Lyn can now delete her copy of the document. By choice she then only retains a reference to the file--only an anchor pointing to the file on Henk's machine. This will remove her copy from the "copy list" on Henk's and Mike's computer.

Again note that it is local data objects that are being acted upon. For example, to reconcile two different versions of a document, it is stated that one copy (i.e., Lyn's copy) is sent to Henk's computer (thus the sent copy becomes local to Henk's computer) where Word is used to merge the two documents (i.e., Henk's copy and the copy sent by Lyn). Then, Lyn deletes her copy (which is local to Lyn's computer). Thus, just like in paragraphs [0039] – [0042], Bartram et al. do not teach the step of *prompting the user, in response to the user selecting a hybrid data object, to indicate whether the action is to be performed on the data object stored on the local system, the data object stored on the remote system, or both the data object stored on the local system and the data object stored on the remote system* in paragraphs [0057] – [0066] as asserted by the Examiner.

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Since the Pajak et al. reference is used to show a hybrid data object in the form of an icon with a variable portion that indicates the type of object and not the prompting step of the claimed invention, Applicants submit that Claim 1, as well as its dependent claims, are allowable over the applied references. Independent Claims 28 and 34, which all incorporate the above-emboldened-italicized limitations in the above-reproduced claim 1, together with their dependent claims, are also allowable. Hence, Applicants once more respectfully request reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the claims in the application.

Respectfully Submitted

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